

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FONMIN CHAVAN'S REMARKS TO INDO-INDONESIAN SEMINAR

REF: STATE 094548

1. FOLLOWING ARE VERBATIM TEXT EXCERPTS FROM CHAVAN'S APRIL 23 REMARKS. SECTIONS EXCERPTED ARE THOSE DEALING WITH GREAT POWERS, SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND INDIAN OCEAN.

2. BEGIN QUOTE: SINCE THEN TWO DECADES HAVE GONE BY AND BOTH OUR COUNTRIES HAVE PASSED THROUGH MANY VICISSITUDES. THE COUNTRIES OF ASEAN IN WHOSE FORMATION INDONESIA HAS PLAYED A LEADING ROLE ARE ENGAGED IN THE TASK OF ESTABLISHING A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ENABLING THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO CONCENTRATE ON THEIR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT FREE FROM THE TENSIONS CAUSED BY GREAT POWER RIVALRY AND INTERVENTION. INDIA HAS WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED THIS CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL AND HAS PLEDGED ITS WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN THE ATTAINMENT OF ITS OBJECTIVES. THE LOTTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE PROCLAIMED THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE WITH A VIEW TO PROMOTING THE SAME OBJECTIVES. THE TWO PROPOSALS

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ARE IN FACT INEXTRICABLY LINKED. EFFORTS TO PERSUADE EXTERNAL

POWERS TO COMPLY WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL AND UNDER THE ASEAN PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SOUTH EAST ASIA AS A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY ARE BUT DIFFERENT FACETS OF ONE AND THE SAME UNDERTAKING. WE IN INDIA ARE WATCHING THE EFFORTS OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES TO PROMOTE THEIR OBJECTIVES WITH SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING AND WE EXTEND OUR FULL SUPPORT TO THESE EFFORTS.

"THERE HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMIND THE CONSENSUS REACHED BY THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES ON THE CONCEPT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A ZONE OF PEACE. A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN TO MISINTERPRET THE SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY MIGHTY EXTERNAL POWERS WITH WORLDWIDE MASS MEDIA AT THEIR DISPOSAL. SEMINARS OF THIS TYPE SHOULD HELP TO CORRECT SUCH DISTORTIONS AND TO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FRIENDLY NATIONS LIKE OURS TO ARRIVE AT OUR OWN INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC ASSESSMENTS ON VITAL ISSUES OF THIS KIND WITH A VIEW TO ENLARGING THE AREA OF OUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

"DRAMATIC CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE SITUATION IN INDO-CHINA AND THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL INEVITABLY HAVE THEIR IMPACT ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF BOTH THE NATIONS OF THE REGION AS WELL AS THE GREAT POWERS. THESE DEVELOPMENTS IN INDO-CHINA ARE THE CULMINATION OF A HEROIC STRUGGLE WAGED BY THE PEOPLE OF INDO-CHINA TO ASSERT THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO SHAPE THEIR DESTINY WITHOUT EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE. THEY REPRESENT THE INEVITABLE VICTORY OF FORCES OF NATIONALISM OVER ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE SUCH FORCES THROUGH OUTSIDE INTERVENTION AND CONSTITUTE A GRATIFYING VINDICATION OF THE CONSISTENT POSITION MAINTAINED BY US ON THIS QUESTION OVER THE YEARS. SINCE 1971 FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED IN THE SUB-CONTINENT WITH THE EMERGENCE OF BANGLADESH AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION. WEST ASIA TOO IS IN A STATE OF TURMOIL. THE TENSE SITUATION IN WEST ASIA AND THE CRITICAL ROLE PLAYED BY OIL IN THE STRATEGIC PERCEPTIONS OF VARIOUS POWERS HAVE TENDED TO FURTHER AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION IN THE REGION. THESE VARIOUS FACTORS HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON GREAT POWER BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA.

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"THE INTERACTION OF THE GREAT POWERS IN THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTS OF INDONESIA AND INDIA HAS CREATED A VARIETY OF SECURITY PROBLEMS FOR BOTH COUNTRIES. AS NON-ALIGNED NATIONS OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TOWARDS THE ATTENUATION IF NOT THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF THE EFFECTS OF SUCH INTERACTION ON OUR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTS. WE ARE ONLY TOO CONSCIOUS THAT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO ATTAIN OUR OBJECTIVES. OUR

RESPECTIVE PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE GREAT POWERS AND THEIR INTERACTION WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT DERIVE FROM OUR RESPECTIVE HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF OUR EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS ON THE BASIS OF WHICH IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IN WHICH SPECIFIC WAYS WE CAN COOPERATE IN PROMOTING PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION TO WHICH WE BOTH BELONG.

"I AM GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT THE SEMINAR IS TO DISCUSS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUCLEAR ISSUE IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY COMPONENTS OF OUR NATIONAL STRATEGIES. THIS IS A WELCOME DEPARTURE FROM THE CONVENTIONAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM WHICH INVOLVES EXCLUSIVE PREOCCUPATION WITH ITS MILITARY IMPLICATIONS. EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS TO CONDITION THE PERCEPTIONS OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE DISSEMINATION OF VAST QUANTITIES OF PROPAGANDIST LITERATURE WHICH REFLECT THE THINKING OF OUTSIDE INTERESTED PARTIES. IN THIS COUNTRY OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS WE HAVE VIEWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FROM AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS IN A SENSE BEEN UNIQUE AND CONCERTED EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO DISTORT AND MISINTERPRET OUR POLICIES WHICH ARE BASED ON SOUND AND OBJECTIVE PRINCIPLES WHICH I AM GLAD TO NOTE HAVE BEEN WARMLY ENDORSED THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD. I AM CONFIDENT THAT EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT AT THE SEMINAR WILL PROVE USEFUL TO BOTH SIDES."

END QUOTE.SAXBE

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